

**CITY OF KINGSTON**  
**Office of Economic and Community Development**  
[brobinson@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:brobinson@kingston-ny.gov)

Brenna L. Robinson, Director



Steven T. Noble, Mayor

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**Contact:**

Brenna Robinson, Director  
Office of Economic and Community Development  
[brobinson@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:brobinson@kingston-ny.gov)  
845-334-3924

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Office of Economic and Community Development holds Community Development Advisory Board session, establishes priority focus areas for entitlement funding*

Kingston, N.Y.

The 2016 Community Development Block Grant process has proceeded as scheduled, with the Office of Economic and Community Development facilitating 4 informational sessions and 2 public hearings in the past 6 weeks. On Tuesday, members of the Community Development Advisory Board met with staff of the Office of Economic and Community Development to review all grant applications submitted for consideration of funding. Applications for funding for public facilities, infrastructure, and public services projects were due on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

"We had 27 requests for funding through applications and administrative obligations, for a total of \$973,942. As has historically been the case, the project requests are all unique, competitive and truly responsive to the needs of our community," stated Brenna Robinson, Director of the Office of Economic and Community Development.

Per HUD guidelines, a maximum of 15% of the total funding allocation for the City may be spent on public services. The upcoming fiscal year's total allocation is \$673,942, with approximately \$91,000 available for public services.

After reviewing the grant applications and identifying essential services and innovative enrichment programs, Mayor Steve Noble will issue his recommendations.

"I am committed to investing in our facilities, infrastructure, and public services to the greatest extent possible." Mayor Noble stated. "As these resources continue to dwindle, it is critical that we coordinate our efforts to ensure that funding is used most effectively. In order to do this, we must evaluate each application as part of our larger strategy. Our priority focus areas include ensuring quality housing, providing youth services, and enhancing access to public facilities and infrastructure."

Mayor Noble is currently reviewing all of the comments from the staff and Advisory Board and will release his recommendations in April. The Common Council's Community Development Committee will meet on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at City Hall to review the Mayor's recommendations and issue its updated recommendations for a full Common Council vote on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm.

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**Additional Information about the Community Development Block Grant Funding:**

Annually, the City of Kingston receives an Entitlement Grant allocation through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. In accordance with the administration of the CDBG Entitlement funding, the City's Office of Community Development has prepared a five-year Consolidated Plan which serves as the long-range plan for spending the City's annual CDBG allocations. This plan sets forth community needs, long-range program goals, specific program objectives, annual goals and benchmarks for measuring the program's success. In an effort to meet community needs, the local CDBG application process is a tool to gather partners and support for these efforts. The City must also prepare its Annual Action Plan for the 2016 Fiscal Year, which runs from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, and will include these community partners' proposals.